

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PRESIDENT RATSIRAKA'S REACTION TO PANMUNJOM INCIDENT
AND OTHER STORIES

REF: TANANARIVE 1378

SUMMARY. AT CREDENTIALS CEREMONIES FOR THREE NEW
AMBASSADORS AUGUST 27, RATSIRAKA MADE THREE ESSENTIALLY
ANTI-AMERICAN STATEMENTS WHICH WERE REPORTED BY THE PRESS.
TO THE NORTH KOREAN HE DECRIED US PROVOCATION AT PANMUNJOM
(ALSO SEE REFTEL); TO THE JAPANESE HE SPOKE OF THE ATOM
BOMBING OF HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI; AND TO THE CUBAN HE
OFFERED HIS CONGRATULATIONS FOR HAVING DEFEATED THE
"LARGEST REPRESENTATIVE OF IMPERIALISM." END SUMMARY.

1. AUGUST 27 PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS OF THREE NEW
AMBASSADORS TO MADAGASCAR SERVED AS VEHICLE FOR PRESIDENT
RATSIRAKA TO TAKE THREE SEPARATE CUTS AT THE US. IN
ADDITION TO RADIO MADAGASCAR'S QUOTES WHEN RATSIRAKA
RECEIVED NEW (AND FIRST RESIDENT) NORTH KOREAN
AMBASSADOR SEU DJIN YONG, NEWSPAPER MADAGASCAR MATIN
REPORTED THAT RATSIRAKA STATED: "...YOU KNOW THAT WE
SENT TO THE NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT AT COLOMBO A TELEGRAM OF
SUPPORT FOR THE JUST CAUSE OF THE REUNIFICATION OF YOUR
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COUNTRY. AND THE NEXT DAY OCCURRED THE AMERICAN PROVO-

CATION. THE WORLD IS A PREY TO DIVISIONS, ANTAGONISMS. ONE WAS ABLE TO PROVOKE A WAR WHEN THE ARCHDUKE WAS KILLED AT SARAJEVO AND WHEN A NAZI NAMED HITLER DID NOT WANT TO ADMIT THAT OTHER RACES COULD BE SUPERIOR TO THE ARYAN RACE. BUT THAT AMERICAN IMPERIALISM SHOULD THREATEN WORLD PEACE BECAUSE ONLY TWO MEN DIED, THAT IS INCREDIBLE, UNACCEPTABLE. THE DEATH OF THE TWO AMERICAN OFFICERS, REGRETTABLE AS IT IS, AND FOR WHICH (NORTH) KOREA HAS ALREADY EXPRESSED ITS REGRETS, DOES NOT MERIT THE SENDING OF THE SEVENTH FLEET TO KOREA IN ORDER TO PROVOKE THE KOREAN PEOPLE. WE PROFIT FROM THIS OCCASION TO SOLEMNLY REAFFIRM OUR SUPPORT FOR THE STRUGGLE OF THE KOREAN PEOPLE. IF THE AMERICAN SOLDIERS UNDER THE UN FLAG HAD LEFT KOREA, THERE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ANY DEATHS. THE OCCUPATION TROOPS SHOULD LEAVE SOUTH KOREA IN ORDER TO PERMIT THE KOREAN PEOPLE TO PEACEFULLY REUNITE THEIR COUNTRY."

2. WHEN RECEIVING THE NEW JAPANESE AMBASSADOR TERUHIKO MAKAMURA, RATSIRAKA WAS QUOTED BY MADAGASCAR MATIN AS HAVING SAID: "I AM HAPPY THAT YOU (THE JAPANESE) SUPPORT US IN OUR STRUGGLE TO MAKE THE INDIAN OCEAN A ZONE OF PEACE AND A DEMILITARIZED, DENUCLEARIZED ZONE. I KNOW THAT JAPAN WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI."

3. WITH THE NEW (AND FIRST RESIDENT) CUBAN AMBASSADOR LAUREANO CARDOSO TOLEDO, RATSIRAKA WAS QUOTED: "I CONGRATULATE YOU FOR WHAT YOU REPRESENT BECAUSE CUBA, ALONG WITH VIET NAM, ALGERIA, ANGOLA, IS THE SYMBOL OF RESISTANCE OF THE SMALL COUNTRIES AGAINST IMPERIALISM AND NEOCOLONIALISM. YOU HAVE DEFEATED THE LARGEST REPRESENTATIVE OF IMPERIALISM."

4. COMMENT: RATSIRAKA DOES NOT OFTEN COMMENT PUBLICLY ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. DURING FOURTEEN MONTHS IN OFFICE, SUCH COMMENTS HAVE BEEN LIMITED TO HIS POLEMICAL STATEMENTS WHEN HE FIRST TOOK OFFICE, TO HIS SPEECHES DURING THE REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN LAST DECEMBER, TO HIS PRESS CONFERENCES (LAST ONE IN MARCH), AND TO STATEMENTS MADE FOR PUBLIC CONSUMPTION AT THE CREDENTIALS CEREMONIES FOR NEW AMBASSADORS. SINCE THE NEWSPAPERS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND RADIO MADAGASCAR HAVE NOT YET FOLLOWED UP ON RATSIRAKA'S THEMES, EXCEPT AS REPORTED REFTTEL, WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT HIS STATEMENTS WERE SIMPLY IMPROMPTU AND NOT PART OF A NEW CAMPAIGN WHICH HE INTENDS TO PUSH THROUGH THE MEDIA AND POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS.SHEINBAUM

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